CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 18 September 1952

COUNTRY Albania

Firefight Between Albanian Government

and Nationalist Forces

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

PLACE **ACQUIRED** 

SUBJECT

DATE OF

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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- 1. Albanian refugees arriving in Yugoslavia during July and August, 1952 report that a large scale firefight lasting three days took place between Albanian Nationalist and Government forces in the vicinity of Bushnesh, near Kruje, Albania. The action was reported as having occurred either in the second week of June or in July.
- 2. According to these reports, strength of the Nationalist forces was about 25 men. One of the Nationalist leaders was identified as Preng Frrok Gjeta, a member of the Albanian resistance who had at one time been arrested and held for execution but had escaped when the security forces released him under surveillance so that they might locate other members of the Mirdite resistance groups; another leader was identified as Geg Zef Hyseni from Kurbini. The Nationalist group was surrounded following betrayal of their location. The Government forces, unable to destroy the group with the forces at their disposal, were forced to call for reinforcements which included tanks and one aircraft. The Government forces were personally commanded by Mehmet Shohu, according to the report, and one high ranking Soviet officer was also present. It was also stated that there were many dead and wounded on both sides before the Nationalists were forced to withdraw.

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